AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing messages in a publish/subscribe message dissemination system, wherein one or more alert conditions are defined for the system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message;

comparing the message with stored message subscriptions to determine required dissemination of the message;

generating an alert when an alert condition is satisfied;

comparing the alert with stored alert subscriptions to determine required dissemination of the alert; and

controlling dissemination of the message and the alert in accordance with their respective required dissemination, wherein

the alert comprises an identification of the original message which resulted in the alert condition and an identification of the publisher and/or message subscriber or message subscribers relevant to the alert condition,

a first matching component of the message dissemination system performs the comparison of the message with stored message subscriptions and determines when an alert condition is satisfied, and the generated alert is input to a second matching component of the message dissemination system to perform the comparison of the alert with stored alert subscriptions to determine required dissemination of the alert, and

the first and second matching components are located at different computers of a distributed message dissemination system.

Claims 2-13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus for providing a publish/subscribe message dissemination service on behalf of publisher and subscriber programs comprising:

means for receiving a published message from a publisher program;

means, responsive to identification of one or more message subscriber programs subscribing to messages of the type of the received message, for forwarding the received message to the one or more message subscriber programs; and

one or more matcher components for:

comparing the received message with stored message subscriptions to identify the one or more message subscriber programs;

generating an alert when an alert condition is satisfied; and

comparing the generated alert with stored alert subscriptions to identify one or more subscriber programs subscribing to the alert; and

means for forwarding the alert to the one or more subscriber programs subscribing to the alert, wherein

the message and alert subscriptions are stored in data storage in association with message topic information,

the one or more matcher components including means for retrieving stored subscription information by reference to message topic information of a received message,

rules procedures for generating and determining required dissemination of alerts are stored in association with the message topic information, wherein the one or more matcher

components are adapted to identify a relevant rules procedure by reference to the message topic information and to forward to the identified rules procedure:

> a message subscription list;
>
> a list of authorized recipients; and
>
> an identification of one or more subscribers for alerts;
>
> thereby to enable generation and determination of required dissemination of an

alert.

the one or more matcher components includes:

> means for performing an authorization check to identify a subset of the identified one or more message subscriber programs which subset of programs is authorized to receive the message; and
>
> means for generating an alert when the authorization check identifies an unauthorized message subscriber.

Claims 15-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer~~-~~readable medium having stored therein ~~program product, comprising program code recorded on a recording medium,~~ instructions for controlling the operation of a data processing apparatus ~~on which the program code executes~~ to perform a method of generating and disseminating alerts in a publish/subscribe message dissemination system, ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 13~~ the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message;

comparing the message with stored message subscriptions to determine required dissemination of the message;

generating an alert when an alert condition is satisfied;

comparing the alert with stored alert subscriptions to determine required dissemination of the alert; and

controlling dissemination of the message and the alert in accordance with their respective required dissemination, wherein

the alert comprises an identification of the original message which resulted in the alert condition and an identification of the publisher and/or message subscriber or message subscribers relevant to the alert condition,

a first matching component of the message dissemination system performs the comparison of the message with stored message subscriptions and determines when an alert condition is satisfied, and the generated alert is input to a second matching component of the message dissemination system to perform the comparison of the alert with stored alert subscriptions to determine required dissemination of the alert, and

the first and second matching components are located at different computers of a distributed message dissemination system.